AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) In a computer-based business intelligence system, a method of providing a drill-through service between ~~two or more~~ drill-through objects [[,]] ~~the objects being sources and targets~~, the method comprising steps of:

a) defining ~~one or more drill-through paths between~~ the drill-through objects~~, the drill-through path definitions being collected in a single structure~~ at least in part by metadata;

b) creating one or more drill-through path definitions from one or more pairs of the drill-through objects, using the metadata;

c) collecting the drill-through path definitions in a data structure; and

[[b)]] d) ~~interfacing to~~ creating a report based on the drill-through objects in a run-time environment using the collection of the drill-through path definitions in the data structure. ~~; and~~

~~c) administering and maintaining the drill-through path definitions, independently of applications using them.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the drill-through objects include data collections that are derived from different applications.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the drill-through path definitions ~~of paths~~ are collected in a group of related data structures.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the data collection includes data cubes and data-based reports, which are derived from different report generating applications.

Claims 5. and 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A database application programming interface (API) for providing a drill-through service between a plurality of drill-through objects ~~(drill-through sources and targets)~~, the interface comprising:

a) means for defining ~~one or more~~ the drill-through ~~paths, the definitions of the drill-through paths being collected at a single place; and~~ objects at least in part by metadata;

b) means for creating one or more drill-through path definitions from one or more pairs of the drill-through objects, using the metadata;

c) means for collecting the drill-through path definitions in a data structure; and

[[b)]] d) run-time environment means for ~~interfacing said drill-through paths to the drill-through objects;~~

~~wherein the drill-through path definitions are administered and maintained independently of the applications using them.~~ creating a report based on the drill-through objects using the collection of the drill-through path definitions in the data structure.

8. (Currently amended) The database application programming interface of claim 7, wherein the drill-through objects include[[s]] data collections that are derived from different applications.

9. (Currently amended) The application programming interface of claim 7, wherein the drill-through path definitions ~~of paths~~ are collected in a group of related data structures.

10. (Currently amended) The database application programming interface of claim 8, wherein the data collection includes data cubes and data-based reports, which are derived from different report generating applications.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A computer-based drill-through path administration method for use in a framework having a plurality of drill-through sources and drill-through targets~~, the sources and targets having potential drill-through paths~~, the method comprising steps of:

a) defining the drill-through sources and targets at least in part by metadata;

[[a)]] b) displaying the ~~potential~~ drill-through sources and targets;

[[b)]] c) accepting from a tool user an indication of ~~those~~ the drill-through sources and targets for which a drill-through path is required; and

[[c)]] d) for each source for which a drill-through path is required[[;]]:

i) importing the source;

~~ii) optionally determining automatically the possible drill-through paths for the required sources and targets;~~

ii) for each drill-through path, associating the drill-through source and target using the metadata;

iii) collecting the drill-through path in a data structure;

~~iii)~~ iv) ~~permitting~~ accepting from a ~~the~~ tool user an indication to select one or more drill-through paths in the data structure;

~~iv)~~ v) ~~allowing~~ accepting from a ~~the~~ tool user an indication to edit the selected drill-through paths to select appropriate parameters; and

~~v) allowing the tool user to edit the selected drill-through paths to add parameter mapping functions; and~~

vi) encapsulating the selected drill-through paths in a program library.

13. (Currently amended) The drill-through path administration method of claim 12, wherein the step of accepting from a ~~the~~ tool user an indication of ~~those~~ the drill-through sources and the drill-through targets for which a drill-through path is required uses a graphical user interface whereon the tool user draws lines connecting nodes representing the drill-through source[[s]] and the drill-through target[[s]] for the drill-through path.

14. (Currently amended) The drill-through path administration method of claim 12, wherein the step of associating comprises the step of ~~optionally~~ determining

automatically the ~~possible~~ drill-through paths for the required sources and targets, the step of determining ~~comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

a) comparing the source and target parameter names of the drill-through source and target;

b) if the source and target parameter names match, then establishing a mapping between the source and target parameters; and

c) if the source and target parameter names do not match then performing the steps of:

i) searching for other information regarding the parameters which ~~matches~~ match and establishing [[a]] one or more preliminary mappings between ~~those~~ the source[[s]] and target[[s]];

ii) presenting ~~the~~ a tool user with a list of the one or more preliminary mappings from which to make a selection; ~~and~~

iii) accepting from a tool user an indication to select from the list of the one or more preliminary mappings; and

~~iii)~~ iv) adding the selected preliminary mappings to the list of mappings established by matching parameter names.

15. (Original) The drill-through path administration method of claim 12, wherein the program library is an entity selected from the group consisting of dynamically shared library, and plug-in.

16. (Original) The drill-through path administration method of claim 12, wherein the source comprises one or more databases or applications provided by a third party.

17. (Currently amended) A computer-based drill-through path administration ~~tool~~ system for use ~~by a tool user~~ within a computer-based business modeling tool ~~with~~ having a framework comprising ~~composed of~~ drill-through sources and drill-through targets ~~having potential drill-through paths~~, the drill-through path administration ~~tool~~ system ~~consisting of~~ comprising:

a) means for defining the drill-through sources and targets at least in part by metadata;

[[(a)]] b) means for displaying the ~~potential~~ drill-through path sources and targets;

[[(b)]] c) means for accepting from ~~the~~ a tool user an indication of ~~those~~ the drill-through sources and targets for which a drill-through path is required;

[[(c)]] d) means for importing the source for each source for which a drill-through path is required;

~~(d) optional means for determining automatically the possible drill-through paths for the required sources and their targets;~~

e) means for associating the drill-through source and target using the metadata,

f) collecting the drill-through path in a data structure;

[[(e)]] g) means for ~~permitting~~ accepting from a ~~the~~ tool user an indication to select one or more drill-through paths in the data structure;

[[(f)]] h) means for editing the selected drill-through paths to allow a ~~the~~ tool user to select appropriate parameters; and

~~(g) optional means for allowing the a tool user to edit the selected drill-through paths to add parameter mapping functions; and~~

[[(h)]] i) means for encapsulating the selected drill-through paths in a program library.

18. (Currently amended) The drill-through path administration ~~tool~~ system of claim 17, wherein the means for accepting from ~~the~~ a tool user an indication of ~~those~~ the drill-through sources and targets for which a drill-through path is required uses a graphical user interface whereon the tool user draws lines connecting nodes representing the drill-through source[[s]] and target[[s]] for the drill-through path.

19. (Currently amended) The drill-through path administration ~~tool~~ system of claim 17, wherein the means for associating includes [[the]] means for ~~optionally~~ determining automatically the ~~possible~~ drill-through paths for the required sources and targets, the means for determining ~~consists of~~ comprising:

a) means for comparing the source and target parameter names of the drill-through source and target;

b) ~~if the source and target parameter names match then providing~~ means for establishing a mapping between the matching source and target parameters; [[and]]

c) means for searching for information for non-matching source and target parameter names regarding other parameters which match and establishing one or more preliminary mappings between the non-matching source[[s]] and target[[s]];

d) means for presenting ~~the~~ a tool user with a list of the one or more preliminary mappings between the non-matching source[[s]] and target[[s]] from which to make a selection; ~~and~~

e) means for accepting from a tool user an indication to select from the list of the one or more preliminary mappings; and

[[e)]] f) means for adding the selected preliminary mappings to the list of the one of more preliminary mappings established by the matching parameter names.

20. (Currently amended) The drill-through path administration ~~tool~~ system of claim 17, wherein the program library is an entity selected from the group consisting of a dynamically shared library and a plug-in.

21. (Currently amended) The drill-through path administration ~~tool~~ system of claim 17, wherein the source comprises one or more databases or applications provided by a third party.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the drill-through objects include a drill-through source and a drill-through target, the drill-through path definition defining a path between the drill-through source and the drill-through target.

23. (New) The database application programming interface of claim 7, wherein the drill-through objects include a drill-through source and a drill-through target, the drill-through path definition defining a path between the drill-through source and the drill-through target.

24. (New) The drill-through path administration method of claim 12, further including the step of:

accepting from a tool user an indication to edit the selected drill-through paths to add parameter mapping functions.

25. (New) The drill-through path administration method of claim 24, wherein the step of encapsulating includes the step of encapsulating the selected and edited one or more drill-through paths in the program library.

26. (New) The drill-through path administration system of claim 17, further including:

means for accepting from a tool user an indication to edit the selected drill-through paths to add parameter mapping functions.

27. (New) The drill-through path administration system of claim 26, wherein the means for encapsulating includes means for encapsulating the selected and edited drill-through paths in the program library.